

You know, there are many students that I had and I'm absolutely proud of. But there's only one student I had that I've never seen like her in my life. And I can say that I can't be anything but proud of her. And yes, it's a girl.

The story of this student, that I wish to tell you right now, started in my days at university. Well, most of the students I had, every one of them became my student when I was a student myself. To say it briefly, she was majoring nursing. And she wasn't studying at university but at a local college. Therefore, you might say how much of a low level student she was. Of course I used to disagree with this idea and I still do.

To begin, I have to say that she used to chat with me through SN. Which means, that I neither met her in person, nor even saw her.

All that she used to ask me were simple English literature questions. And sometimes she asked some very, very basic computer questions, stuff that I'd learned at high school or maybe even before that.

But then one day, something happened to her. Something sparked in her. Something encouraged her to do the impossible in order to reach her new goal. At those days, I used to believe that she was just trying to prove herself to me. To prove that she was worth all the time I spent on teaching her that basic stuff. But later, I realized that I was indeed, drown in the darkness of my ego.

And until today, I spent many times, thinking about that particular day; what was it that encouraged her so much? But still, I haven't reached any conclusion.

Now you might be asking: what happened on that day. Well, it went like this; I was sitting in a café with three or four of my students who were all girls, and I was teaching them some new programming language. Then suddenly, my smartphone vibrated. I excused myself and unlocked my phone to see who it was. And it was no one but her. I thought she had her usual questions about Microsoft Excel or PowerPoint or something like that, but no. All she said that she was shocked to see me here in her favorite café, and with whom? With a bunch of girls!

At first she was angry of course (idiot little girl). But then that I explained to her that they were my students and I was teaching them programming, she calmed a little. At least I felt that with her reply which was a simple 'oh, ok.'

Still, I hadn't see her yet even though she was sitting somewhere in that café. I looked around a little and I didn't see any girl around her age. Until I noticed a girl who was sitting at a table in the corner with some books on it, dropped her phone on the table, a little hard. I focused on her face, which was not very happy. That moment I realized that I've found her (which I totally don't remember how I figured out it was her!). But neither I, who was in the middle of teaching, in the mood to go and talk to her, nor she was which was clear from her looks.

Moments later, when I was busy with my students, she stood up and grabbed her phone and ran out of the café. She was in such a hurry that something dropped from her bag and she didn't even notice it.

I did not bother worrying about her at that moment. If she had a bad time because of anything, she had to deal with it. I had no time for her at all.

She didn't chat with me for some days. A week or more had past since I saw her in the café. Until one day, she started her chatting once again. This time, she had no question for her studies. But it was about something else that pretty surprised me; she asked about changing her major! And guess to what? To computer science!!

Well, of course I wasn't the type that breaks a young student's spirit. But I was shocked, as much as I was impressed that she was interested in CS, though I did not know the reason. Well, I could not tell her anything but congratulate her for her decision, even though it was both very fast and a little late. But it was better than nothing nonetheless.

However, I did give her some scary information about CS, like the difficulty of programming and such as that. And also about mathematics in CS, which by itself was a horror for a lazy student. But none of these could break her decision. I did not know whether I should be happy that she had such a

strong spirit, or to feel sorry for her because she had no idea what she was getting herself into.

It was at those moments when these ridiculous thoughts came to my mind. Thoughts such as "well, she's going to fail, and she'll be sorry about her decision. It would be too late for being sorry but it'll be her fault not mine." Without a piece of sympathy, I said those words in my mind.

She actually asked me to give her some beginning lessons about programming before registering at the university. I helped her as much as I could. And then a few days later, she brought her papers for registration. Of course, the first thing she had to do was passing the emplacement tests. That's where those thoughts came again "okay, she's going to loss hope after reading the first question, and then she's going to cry in front of others and will embarrass herself and then she'll leave university and will never come back." I have no idea why I was thinking that way.

It was not jealousy, that's I'm sure about. But it was the same reason why some of my colleagues used to call me their teacher. They saw me a superior one to themselves in terms of studying and programming level. That's what I was expecting from this girl too. Even though she always talked highly about my skills in English and my knowledge in computer science, but I never expected her to dare and join the university. It seemed something unusual to me.

Well, time explained everything to me. As much as I knew about my own skills, I was unaware that she too, were doing her best in studying and improving her skills (especially in English) to reach her goal. She always asked me to give an opinion about what she was doing.

If she had anything that would push her to reach her goal, she lacked the self-esteem and the confidence in herself. I was sure that nothing I say could change her for her courage was unbelievable. Nevertheless, I don't realize why she asked for an opinion. If she were so keen to become a CS major, and she was already ignoring her family and friends' negative comments, what the hell she needed from my opinion?!

In the day of her emplacement tests, I met her at university. She had the normal anxiety that any new student has. When she entered the room, she knew that there was no good in going back at that moment. So she had no choice but to put her fears aside for the time. I stayed at the university to see what her results will be.

A few hours passed like nothing. I don't know how I spent those hours. But when she came out of the room, I knew my worries were about to end. She came to me and showed me her papers without saying what she did. But her face talked louder than any words. She was burning with excitement and surprise of what she had done. I thought "well, perhaps she got a little above the average and she's happy about it."

When I saw her result, my jaw hit the floor, as I was surprised even more than she was. She got full mark in her English test, and 98 out of 100 in her math. Her results meant that she was not going through all the foundation crap, and that from her first semester, she would start taking major courses. I was so shocked that I didn't know what to say in comment. To realize that she has surpassed most of her colleagues and even myself in the emplacement tests was a great surprise to me. At first I thought there had to be some mistakes in the calculations. But the papers said it was the final results, which meant her tests were reviewed by her instructor.

I dismissed all the stupid thoughts for the moment, and congratulated her. For I had nothing to say expect congratulating her. But still, there was a chance that she would fail. The first major course in CS was one of hardest ones between all the majors.

I still don't know why I wished for her to fail. Any other freshman students I met, I always wished them success and the best of luck, even the stupid ones. But this one, this girl, she was different. She was like a bone in my throat. Something inside me was not letting me to help her success.

Still, when she asked me for my opinion, I said that these results are the beginning of her success, and that if she needed any help with her studies, she could ask me.

But since the first day of her semester, she didn't ask for any serious problem in her studies. Sometimes, she asked questions that I was sure she could solve if she spent some time on them. Sometimes, I knew that her questions were already answered by herself, but she just wanted to ask me in order to start a conversation.

Except the times that she attended my lectures with my other students, her conversations with me were either about her problems at home, or about her anxiety of getting a job in the future. Sometimes, I could notice that my other students, especially the girls, were envying her for her brilliancy in programming. And some other girls envied her because the guys among my students wished to sit down with her and talk to her, even though she was not interested!

And after four years, she graduated with 3.98 points. The university gave her an ultimate offer to continue her studies abroad on their account. So she, instead of looking for a job, which among many companies she was their highest priority to hire, she accepted this offer despite the disagreement of her family. She told me herself that her mother was on her side but her father wasn't. But in the end, he agreed on terms that her older brother must accompany her, and that on every spring break, she must pay her family a visit. And in summer breaks, it would be the other way around.

Of course, the first thing she did, was discussing her father's terms with me. She was worried that her brother would be a problem with her studies (poor girl didn't know that her brother was an investor in my company). I assured her of her brother, and that she could trust him. She relied on my advice and a few weeks later, she left with her brother.

Before she left, she made a solid promise that she'll join my company after her graduation. As I said before, employing her was something that every company owner would daydream about.

And right now, she's a CS master student at school of engineering and applied sciences in Harvard University. And here I am, the COO of a company I've founded with one of my colleagues.

Now some people might be saying that my colleagues believe I envy her. I'm not denying this. Some of my friends did tell me that I'm jealous of her, but they're wrong.

I'm always at loss of words whenever I talk about this. But I'm asking you people: who wouldn't be jealous if they were in such situation?!

To see a person, that you always thought low about, suddenly jumps and moves on and becomes superior to you, what would you be except being jealous of this person?

Well, you would be jealous, but you should not. What you should be, and what you must be, is to be proud of that person, and to be sorry for yourself that you always saw yourself superior to that person.

And right now, I can't feel anything towards her, except being absolutely proud of her. And of course, to feel quite bad for myself, for being such an egoistic person towards her even when I witnessed her accomplishments, and seeing her brilliance and courage in changing her life and becoming something new.

- H.D.H. Helmsley